

is yet another prestigious recognition of the outstanding work of Mr. Sponzilli.

I have known Richard for many years now as well as have attended the Dean McNulty Dinner for many years and know that this is a well-deserved honor. His story has not only inspired me but has inspired many of those around him. I value Rich's friendship and, as his friend, am happy to see him acknowledged in so many ways.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Mr. Richard Sponzilli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Sponzilli's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Mr. Richard Sponzilli.

---

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EMELIA ROSE  
YANKAH

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, I am pleased and honored to join the chorus of family, friends, loved ones and many well-wishers who join in praise and give thanks to Mrs. Emelia Rose Yankah.

As you reflect on the numerous memories and triumphs you have been blessed to experience over the last eight plus decades your professional, community leadership, and membership with numerous civic organizations have given you the opportunity to make an indelible impact in the lives of many.

We are forever grateful to our Heavenly Father for having put Mrs. E.R. Yankah in our midst on April 16, 1930, and for filling her with grace, compassion and love. Today as your family, friends, community and congregation stand to celebrate your 85th Birthday, know that I am exceedingly honored to join this celebration and extend our humble gratitude. Countless lives have been made all the better and richer because of this kind spirit.

We ask:

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine upon you.

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

As you look forward to the years ahead, know that I am praying for your continued health and happiness.

---

COL. HENRY CYR

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Henry L. Cyr III, United States Air Force, for his exceptional service to the United States of America. After twenty-six years of

service, Colonel Cyr will soon retire from his position as the Commander of the 461st Air Control Wing, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Born in Hopedale, Massachusetts, Colonel Cyr was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Boston University in 1989, receiving his Second Lieutenant rank in historic Faneuil Hall. Throughout his career, Colonel Cyr has served with great distinction in prominent command and staff positions and operational flying units in the United States and around the world.

His staff tours include two assignments to the Pentagon; first, in 2002, as Air Force staff responsible for overseeing two U.S. and NATO Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft acquisition programs, and again in 2009 as United States Strategic Command staff leading the Global Force Management Division, responsible for supporting the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance requirements of our Combatant Commanders around the globe. In 2011 Col. Cyr returned to Robins Air Force Base to serve as the Vice Commander of the 461st Air Control Wing.

Colonel Cyr has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Air Medal, and multiple campaign medals. His aviation career includes more than 4,700 flying hours, including more than 900 in combat and combat support missions. He has flown operations in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Haiti, Kosovo and Iraq, as well as worldwide Sensitive Reconnaissance Operations missions. Currently, he is the commander of the Air Combat Command's 461st Air Control Wing responsible for leading nearly fifteen hundred Airmen in achieving the worldwide E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System and Deployable Air Traffic Control and Landing System missions.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Colonel Henry Cyr's successful and decorated career. I commend Colonel Cyr for his service, leadership, and example. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Colonel Cyr's family including wife retired Lt. Col. Linda Bethke-Cyr, their children Alexandria and Marcus, and his parents Mrs. Geraldine Francis Cyr and retired Colonel Henry Leonard Cyr, Jr.

We are a nation grateful for the military service of the men, women, and families whose sacrifices secure our freedom. I wish Colonel Cyr and his family the best in his retirement and next steps.

---

IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LAS  
POSITAS COLLEGE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Las Positas College in Livermore, California.

Las Positas has been serving residents of the Tri-Valley with quality educational and vocational training for the past forty years.

Las Positas serves 8,500 students from all walks of life. Their dedication to training and

educating all those that seek to better themselves, from recent high school graduates to veterans to mid-career professionals, is second to none.

In the heart of one of America's fastest growing business and residential regions, Las Positas College has been a staple for higher education and skill development for decades. The college provides the local rapidly growing technological, science, and business industries with the trained personnel they need to be successful.

Las Positas' slogan is "Students First," an ideal mantra that all institutions of higher education should follow. It exemplifies the goals of providing an excellent, equitable, and complete education.

On this day we recognize Las Positas College as being one of the premier educational institutions in the California Community College System for the past forty years and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success in the future.

---

THE LIFE OF ALEX MICHEL ODEH

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Alex Michel Odeh.

Alex was born on April 4, 1944 in Jifna, Palestine and immigrated to the United States in 1972.

He was married to Norma Odeh and settled in Orange County, CA where they had three daughters, Helena, Samya and Susan Odeh.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Odeh dedicated his professional life to teaching and served as a lecturer of Arabic Language and Middle East History at Coastline Community College in Santa Ana, California.

He dedicated his life to the pursuit of combatting discrimination both at home and abroad as a civil and human rights activist.

He was tireless in working with community and religious organizations to build bridges and foster peace and understanding between diverse groups.

Unfortunately, his life was cut short and Alex was assassinated on October 11, 1985, when a bomb exploded as he entered the office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) at 1905 East 17th Street in Santa Ana, California during his service as the Western Regional Director of ADC.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of his murder and the community and his family has yet to gain closure and justice for his death.

In June of 2013, I sent the Department of Justice a letter asking for closure in the case of Alex Odeh and we have yet to get a concrete answer from them, even though the FBI has characterized Mr. Odeh's death as a domestic "terrorist attack."

I will continue to fight for answers to Alex's death and bring those that killed him to justice, but let us mark his death by remembering what he stood for and what he dedicated his life to: the pursuit to civil and human rights, as well as peace and mutual understanding between our diverse communities.